AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The paragraph starting on page 2, line 22, has been amended in the following manner:

A1

These and other objects and advantages are realized by various aspects of the present invention. According to one aspect of the present invention, a computer implemented collaboration system includes at least one repository server, at least one client tool, and at least one data channel server. The repository server is associated with at least one data source and is enabled for accessing data items within its associated data source(s) using access methods native to its associated data(s) source. The client tool is enabled for displaying the data items within said the data source(s) associated with the repository server on a user terminal connectable with the computer implemented collaboration system. The data channel server provides an interface between the repository server and the client tool. In this regard, the repository server, the client tool, and the data channel server may be implemented within a Common Object Request Broker Architecture (CORBA) framework. The computer implemented collaboration system also includes at least one extended property such as, for example, a visualization property or a control property for use in displaying the data items with the client tool. The extended property is associated with each data item within the data source(s) and is maintained by the data channel server. In this regard, the extended property may be maintained in the data channel server in a directed a-cyclic graphical form.

The paragraph starting on page 3, line 14, has been amended in the following manner:

A2

According to another aspect of the present invention, a computer implemented method for collaborative access to and manipulation of data items within at least one data source includes the step of creating a document representing data items within the data source(s). In this regard, the document may be created by executing a static query of the data source(s) to identify data items meeting specified query criteria at a moment in time, or evaluating the query continually, either periodically or as new data arrives, providing a standing query of said the data source(s) to identify data items meeting specified query criteria.

A 3

FIG. 34 illustrates the components that make up a data channel server 14 and describes the interactions between a client and the data channel sever 14 to learn about the data referenced by a document 110 and to extract the information through the data channel server 14 interface, as well as register for updates that the data channel server 14 may receive. As is shown in FIG. 34, the data channel server 14 includes a conference 102. Within each conference 102 there are multiple data channels. Each data channel includes a data model. Each data model represents multiple data items having multiple extended properties. Each data model maintains the current version of each of its data items. When a client data viewing tool 18 is started, the desktop manager provides a handle to the a viewer within the client data viewing tool 18. The viewer includes a view which includes an item presentation. The view maintains the most recently received version of the data model obtained by the client data viewing tool 18 from the data channel server 14. In this regard, the client data viewing tool 18 gets the data model from the data channel server 14 and registers with the data channel server 14 to be informed of events that the data channel receives from the data model. The next step undertaken by the client data viewing tool 18 is to get the DAG definition of the properties of each data item. In this regard, the client data viewing tool 18 asks the data channel server 14 for only the information needed for rendering its display. Next the client data viewing tool 18 gets all of the changes to the data model. Then, as events are received, the client data viewing tool 18 asks for any updates to the data model since the last version of the data model was obtained from the data channel server 14.